



*St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
of Palos Heights, Illinois*

**PRAYER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, HEALTHCARE WORKERS,
AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

PRIEST: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages.

ALL: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O Heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art in all places and fillest all things; Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.

ALL: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

ALL: Amen.

PSALM 22

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 26

The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident. One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger; you have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me. Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!

EPISTLE READING
Philippians 4:4-9

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

PRIEST: Wisdom.

READER: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

PRIEST: Let us attend.

READER: Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say: Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

PRIEST: Peace be to thee that readest.

READER: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING
Matthew 5:14-16

PRIEST: Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

ALL: And to thy spirit.

PRIEST: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

ALL: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

PRIEST: Let us attend. The Lord said to His Disciples: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven.”

ALL: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

LITANY

PRIEST: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray to thee, hear us, and have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for our Father and Metropolitan JOSEPH, our Bishop ANTHONY, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God’s mercies and help; for the protection of our families; for the peace and stability of the whole world; for the good estate of the holy churches of God; for the salvation and help and protection of those who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, and for all who await the mercies of God

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and forgiveness of sins for the servants of God, all **first responders, healthcare workers, and essential workers** that are ministering and working under the impending threat of the Coronavirus, especially the servants of God (Names) and their families, and that the Lord will be merciful unto them.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray that He may keep our holy churches and this city and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our good God, who loveth mankind, will be gracious, favorable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from his righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRIEST: Again we pray that the Lord our God may hearken unto the voice of the supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.

ALL: Lord, have mercy. (3)

PRAYER FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND ESSENTIAL WORKERS

PRIEST: Let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Master Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all creation visible and invisible, in thine ineffable goodness and love for mankind, look down upon all our first responders, healthcare workers, and essential workers and bless them. Be thou their helper and defender as they minister and work on the front lines under the impending threat of the Coronavirus. Send thine Angel to watch over them and protect them. Grant them wisdom and discernment in the face of crisis. Vouchsafe them strength and courage. Comfort their family members and give them your peace. Preserve, O our Savior, the health of all first responders, healthcare workers, and essential workers so that they may continue to serve thee by serving thy people. For thou art the physician of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father who is from everlasting and thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

ALL: Amen.

DISMISSAL

PRIEST: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to thee.

ALL: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3)

Bless, father, in the Name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, patron and protectress of our holy church; of (daily commemoration); of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of (saints of the day) whose memory we celebrate, and of all the Saints, have mercy upon us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

ALL: Amen.